

9/9/72

Dear Dick,

Thanks for your note dated yesterday. It came yesterday's postmarked the day before, either way fast, which I appreciate.

Despite daily, long committee sessions, all of which I've taken in and made up at night when I missed daytime broadcasts, and all the other things, I've made progress in writing. In words, from the front, over 30,000 now I'd guess. Quite a few thousand more not in sequence. Last night, as an example, I wrote 2,000 while the significance of the two days of hearings just ended was fresh in mind and before the notes I made while watching got cold. I did the same thing at the end of John Dean's testimony, one of the two I considered pivotal when I met with Roy. The other, Hunt's, is crucial. He is now scheduled for next month. He has deteriorated incredibly and may not be completely rational. One story is that he had a stroke in jail! (If you are of a suspicious bent, excess Vitamin K can do it.)

Your asking me to send what I've written to Shepherd is something I'll think about this morning and, after I take my wife into town, decide on and write him. I haven't read a word of it. Only on the few pages I had to skim to pick up continuing have I even cast a glance. Sp, worse than my bad typing, which would make reading difficult, is the fact that I don't know how the uncorrected copy, done in such great haste, seems. I may leave it up to him. But I'll send you whatever I sent him, or rather a carbon of what I write him.

As you may remember, my wife has been working part time so we could be in less desperate straits. This means she has not been able to retype any of it. Because she hasn't, I didn't read and correct, feeling that the colder it is to me the less chance of confabulation.

And, not anticipating this, I followed my usual practise where the need for copies is marginal, used old carbon paper. So, the carbons are very poor. We can't afford them or new ribbons. The ribbon copy is paler than this by far. This is a used ribbon I've just adapted from my wife's Royal to this Hermes.

From now on I'll use better carbon paper and no ribbon paler than this. What my wife types will be with a good ribbon, etc.

It is at once gratifying and frightening that time and ~~events~~ confirm my analysis, in general and in specifics. What is frightening is that there is silence in the face of the thin whitewash of the Ervin committee and the transparent defense of Nixon by Baker, who has become a likely Republican candidate by it. Lawyers are silent, the press is silent, and time works Nixon's way. (I heard him helicopter back to Washington last night not long after dark. Or at least I'm pretty sure ~~he~~ it was his chopper, which I can generally recognize. If this is correct, then I guess he has finished the line he will take or the draft of what he will say now that the committee is in recess and neither it nor the Congress can make real response. This time there has been less chopper traffic than ever, meaning he has been more alone, except for those who might have driven to Camp David.)

FYI, I've gotten copies of some of the committee's unused evidence. It confirms my earlier analysis and give me some of what they suppressed. I guess I'll have to tell Shepherd some of this, so you'll learn from that.

I hope I am correct as I think I am in taking the approach I have for I think it is important that this whole horror be comprehensible. I also think there is more than a whole generation that does not know Nixon. We'll see.

Meanwhile, worry for your kids.

Sincerely,